



THE
CHESS
COLLECTOR



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THE CHESS COLLECTOR

Welcome to the first issue of the Chess Collector, which replaces Chess Master. It will be bringing you news of what has happened and what is to happen in the chess collecting world. To cover events fully, it will have to rely upon you, the readers, to keep us informed. So if you know anything of interest, please share it with the rest of us by writing to me or to any of the editorial committee whose names and addresses appear below.

We also want to publish articles and letters of interest to the chess collector. We shall aim to have something of interest to everybody, covering chess sets from the cheap and cheerful to the old and exotic, chess history, chess books, chess pictures and prints, and chess stamps. In fact anything on chess that we think will interest our readers.

But to provide this, we shall have to depend to a large extent on you. We will contribute articles on aspects of chess collecting that interest us, and that we hope will interest you as well. But our interests may not be identical to yours. If you feel that your area of interest has not been covered, don't just write and complain - write something yourself and send it to us. In fact, don't wait to see if somebody else will do the work for you - do it now and let us have it. Obviously, we can't promise to publish everything we get, but we'll do our best to cover as wide an area as possible.

There will also be a letters column, assuming we get any letters. And if you have any special wants, or if you would like to see if you can sell or exchange any items, there will be a bought and sold column in which you can advertise.

If you have any other ideas as to what can be included in the Chess Collector, please let us know. This is your newsletter.

In order to provide this newsletter, and to continue to promote CCI effectively, it is essential that you pay your dues promptly. The next Chess Collector will appear in about March but if you have not paid your dues by then you may not receive it.

Michael Mark

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Membership dues - 1988 dues are \$25 (£14.50 or DM45) and should have been paid several months ago. Members should pay them now if they have not done so already. Dues for 1989 are \$50 (£29 or DM90) and should be paid as soon as possible - in any event no later than 1st March 1989. Payment should be made in US\$ to the Treasurer Marilyn Ezzes, 25 Central Park West, New York NY 10023, USA or in £ sterling or DM to one of the European committee members named on page 3. If you are not already a member and you would like to join, you can do so by paying the 1989 dues now.

New York Congress - This will be held from 25th-29th May 1990. It will help the Organising Committee if you can complete and return to them, or to a European committee member who will pass it on, the short questionnaire with this month's letter. This will not involve you in any commitment. See also page 4.

THE MUNICH CONGRESS

The Third CCI Congress was held in Munich from 9th to 13th June 1988 and was an outstanding success.

Those giving lectures included Dr. Isaak Linder, the leading Russian chess historian and author of "Chess in Old Russia", who spoke on ancient chessmen found in Afrasiab in the southern part of the Soviet Union; Dr. Joachim Petzold of the German Democratic Republic, and author of "Schach: ein Kulturgeschichte", who spoke on the mirroring of history in the development of chess; Dr. Ulrich Schneider of the Germanisches Nationalmuseum, who spoke on the origins of early chessmen in that museum. The earliest history of chess was also explored by Alessandro Sanvito in his talk on the Venafro chessmen.

More collectible subjects included cast metal sets (Dr. Thomas Thomsen), Meissen sets (Hans Krieger), Eskimo sets (Dr. Jean-Loup Rousselot), chessmen in early books (Lothar Schmid), antique Indian sets (Michael Mark), comic strips, cartoons and other modern chess themes (Floyd Sarisohn) and chess on stamps (Tom Furstenberg).

There was also a visit to the Nymphenburg Porcelain Works. Sets, books and prints were offered for sale by dealers and collectors at an open evening. Lothar Schmid once again gave a simultaneous exhibition, winning the great majority of the games, but suffering a shock defeat at the hands of the Welsh dragon in the shape of Gareth Williams.

The Congress concluded with a Gala dinner on the Sunday evening, and an auction of chess sets organised by Phillips on the Monday afternoon.

EXHIBITIONS

Munich and Nuremberg Three outstanding exhibitions of chessmen, with lavishly illustrated catalogues, were arranged to coincide with the Congress, and the organisers entertained members of CCI at a private viewing of each of them.

The Bayerische National museum in Munich joined forces with the Germanische National museum Nuremberg to put on an exhibition of Central European chessmen and boards from the 12th to the 20th centuries which could not be matched anywhere in the world. After several weeks in Munich, the exhibition moved to Nuremberg from 19th August to 2nd October. It is reported to have been a considerable attraction, with over 17,000 visitors in Nuremberg alone.

Several German collectors combined forces with an exhibition at the Palais Preysing in Munich of chessmen from around the world which was sponsored by the Bayerisches Vereinsbank. This exhibition is also reported to have been well attended.

The Jaeger collection was exhibited at the Staatliche Museum für Volkerkunde. The exhibition proved so successful that it has been extended until 29th January 1989.

In addition, there was an exhibition at the Gallerie Rutmoser of "Chess as seen by Contemporary Artists". Those attending the Congress were invited to a private preview.

London. A small exhibition of playing sets, old chess clocks, prints and photographs was organised for CCI by Gareth Williams at the Short-Speelman world championship quarter final match in the Barbican in London in August.

Late news. A private Swiss collection is currently being exhibited by the Dresdner Bank in a number of German cities.

THE GENERAL MEETING IN MUNICH

The meeting was chaired by the President of CCI, George Dean. The meeting adopted the draft constitution put forward by the by-laws committee set up at the London meeting in 1986, with a few minor modifications, for an interim period of two years, and resolved to review the position in the light of experience and members' comments at the next Congress. A new by-laws committee is to report in time for that Congress.

It was also decided that the next Congress should be in New York in 1990, and Paris and Moscow were discussed as possible venues for 1992 and 1994. The suggestion that Moscow should be considered came from leading Russian chess historian Isaak Linder, who was present at the Congress and from Russian GM Yuri Averbach.

There was debate as to whether cel should join FIDE, paying an affiliation fee of SF400. It was agreed to delegate the decision whether to join, and if so when, to Lothar Schmid.

Members were encouraged to try to organize or participate in exhibitions, for example at chess tournaments and matches, in the area in which they lived - a small exhibition has since been mounted in London in August at the world chess championship quarter final match between Nigel Short and Jonathan Speelman.

Membership dues were fixed at \$50 per member for 1989 and 1990, to be paid to any local committee member or to the treasurer.

It was also decided that a newsletter should replace Chess Master, and Michael Mark agreed to edit it.

There was a debate whether a list of names and addresses of members should be circulated among all the members. Most present wanted this, but a minority expressed concern as to the security aspects of such an arrangement. It was decided to prepare a list but to omit anybody who stated that he or she did not wish to be included.

Elections

The following board of directors was elected:

President - George Dean, USA

Treasurer - Marilyn Ezzes, USA

Secretary - Hope Levene, USA

Without Portfolio - Thomas Thomsen, West Germany, Gareth Williams, UK, and Gilbert Wolmark, France.

The European members elected a European committee consisting of the three European directors together with Franz Josef Lang and Michael Mark.

THE NEW CONSTITUTION

We have an interim constitution, introduced at the Munich meeting, which applies until the New York Congress in May 1990. We then intend to revise it in the light of experience and of suggestions received from members. Those at Munich received copies of the draft constitution. Other paid up members who would like to have a copy of that draft, please write to one of the by-laws committee set up in Munich. They are Franz Josef Lang, Uhlandstrasse 5, D6233 Kelkheim, West Germany; Michael Mark, 35 Shepherds Hill, London N6 50J, England; and Roger Rudolph, 5120 197th Ave NEM, Wyoming MN 55092, USA..

Written comments concerning the new constitution should also be sent to a member of the by-laws committee.

Summary

Objects - to promote the art and history of chess worldwide, including the history of the game, its relationship with other aspects of life, and the creation and production of chess sets, boards, books etc. This is to be achieved by research, conferences, seminars, exhibitions, written publications and other means.

Organisation - General meetings are to be held every two years at the biennial congresses. The affairs of CCI are to be run by four committees - a board of directors, two local committees based in America and in Europe (with the possibility of a third committee if membership outside those areas becomes large enough to justify it), and a congress committee. The board of directors and the local committees are to be elected at each congress for the next two years. The General Meeting will also decide where the next Congress is to be held, and it will then be for the members from that country to appoint a committee to organise the next Congress.

Membership dues - These are determined in General Meeting, and should be paid to the local committees. They will use half within their own area as they think fit and will account for the rest to the board of directors. Congresses are expected to be self financing, so that dues can be applied for the benefit of members at large and not just those who are able to attend the congresses.

It is for the board of directors and the local committees to decide how the money should be applied, but they must each produce annual accounts.

THE FOURTH BIENNIAL CONGRESS
OF CHESS COLLECTORS INTERNATIONAL
IS PLANNED FOR
NEW YORK CITY
MAY 25 - 29 1990
FOR THOSE INTERESTED IN:
CHESS SETS, CHESS BOOKS, CHESS IN ART,
CHESS ON STAMPS
TO PROMOTE THE ART AND HISTORY OF CHESS

The New York Congress will include major exhibitions of chess sets and books, lectures and seminars conducted by experts in their fields as well as the usual social gatherings, and opportunities for meeting old friends and making new ones. For more details write to Floyd Sarisohn, Box 166, Commack, NY 11725-0166.

DRESDEN SEMINAR

From 25 August to 2nd September a conference was held at Dresden University of Technology on "The Importance of Chess to Education, Science and culture."

The programme listed 56 speeches in the eight working days (one day was put aside for sight-seeing). Fortunately, perhaps, a number of speakers, mostly from USSR, did not appear, but even so the days were so crowded that there was seldom an opportunity for discussion. All talks were in either English or German, with simultaneous translation into the other. As might be expected, some technical terms were too much for the hard-pressed translators, and the situation became quite comical at times when the speakers were rushing to put an hour's worth of text into half an hour of rostrum time.

The talks were classified broadly under these headings :-

Chess as a subject of science

Chess as an intellectual requirement

Chess as a stimulus of intellectual activity

Special aspects of chess

Chess in service of pedagogical objectives

Chess as a special discipline of sport

Chess and artificial intelligence - an interactive relation

For me the more interesting papers were those on chess history by Dr. Linder of Moscow and Dr. Petzold of Berlin, Chess & Islam by Dr. Malich (a no longer active GM), and those on computing. No speaker mentioned chessmen in any way that would have interested set collectors, but one of the trips was to Meissen where the famous porcelain manufacturer's museum contained many examples. The designs all looked familiar to me (Keats 58, 59; Mackett-Beeson 36, 93 etc).

A full programme, enjoyed by about fifty delegates from East & West Germany, USSR, USA, UK, Sweden, Greece, Switzerland, Israel, Netherlands and Venezuela.

Ken Whyld

The following publications are available from CCI, Vereinigung Deutschland, Postfach 1502, D6240 Königstein/Taunus, West Germany at the prices indicated plus the cost of postage and packing. The reduced prices indicated are payable only by CCI members who have paid their 1988 or 1989 subscriptions. Please DO NOT SEND MONEY WIT!! YOUR ORDERS. You will be invoiced on receipt of your order for the items still available plus postage and packing. If you would prefer to be invoiced in sterling or US\$ please say so in your order.

	Price	Reduced Price for paid up members
Kongress-Programm Brochure	DM10	DM850
Congress Souvenir Poster	DM15	DM10
Schones Schach	DM25	DM20
Catalogue of the joint museums' exhibition		
Zug der Könige	DM17.50	DM12
Catalogue of the Palais Preysing exhibition		
Linder: Chess in Old Russia	DM27.50	DM225J
Magazin Sammeln, June 1988	DM10	DM750
Includes 15p of illustrated articles on chessmen		
Die Kunst, June 1988	DM12.50	DM10
Contains 5pp illustrated article on chessmen and history of chess		

Other Items for sale

Chess books, including out of print collectors' books. For list write to CAISSA BOOKS, Grays Antique Market A18/19, 1-7 Davies Mews, London W1Y 1AR, or phone 01 629 3644.

19th century Indian and Muslim sets at present available from Manuel Castilho, 10 Geoffrey Van Arcade, 105-107 Portobello Road, London W11. Please write for details or phone 01 221 1988.

The Calderdale Chess Set and Board. A detailed brochure providing illustrated information of this new design, based on the rich architectural heritage of Halifax, can be obtained from: RINGSTONE, C.O.A. Dean Clough, Halifax, West Yorkshire HX3 SAX, England.

McCartney's Illustrated Catalogue of the sale of Antique Chess Sets, 6th May 1988, including price paid list, £3 each (or US\$7 or DM10) from G. Williams, 41 St. Mary's Mansions, St. Mary's Terrace, London W2 1SQ.

Auction news - Phillips are planning another sale including chess sets in their Bond Street salerooms. Further information from Paul Davidson at Phillips.